

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/02132
filed on June 26, 2003.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Prior Art~~ **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to [[a]] **an improved** piezoelectric actuator, for example for actuating a mechanical component such as a valve or the like[[,]] ~~according to the species-defining characteristics of the main claim.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

[0008] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] ~~Drawings~~ **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Applicant: Bertram SUGG
Docket No. R.304045
Preliminary Amdt.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] An exemplary embodiment of the piezoelectric actuator will be **more fully** explained
[[in]] **herein below, in** conjunction with the drawings, **in which:** [[.]]

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] Figs. 4 and 5 each show a cross section through a piezoelectric actuator after sintering, one before and one after the uncovering of the outer electrode regions of the piezoelectric actuator, **and**

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

[0022] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiment~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Page 7, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0028]:

[0029] The foregoing relates to preferred exemplary embodiments of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.